(a) the details of LPG agencies set up in Saidpur Parliamentary Constituency;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to allot more LPG agencies in the above Constituency; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) There is no agency.

(b) and (c). As per present policy, new LPG agencies are opened in a phased manner depending upon the economic viability and product availability, in towns having a population of 20,000 and above (as per 1981 census)

ONGC Drilling in Andhra Pradesh

4602. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC has undertaken Oil and Natural Gas drilling work at several places in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bobbaralanka Unit in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh is not in working condition; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far, 96 exploratory and two parametric wells have been drilled. 19 prospects have been established as hydrocarbon bearing structures.

(c) No unit (drilling rig) is presently deployed in Bobbaralanka area.

(d) Does not arise.

Central Marine Research Institute in Mandapam (T.N.)

4603. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to further develop the Central Marine Research Institute at Mandapam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA) (a) and (b). Sir. It is proposed to strengthen the infrastructure for research at Mandapam during the 8th Plan for Searanching, Seabass Culture and Cultivation of Seaweeds under controlled conditions subject to availability of funds.

(c) Does not arise.

Protection of Fishermen in Tamil Nadu

4604. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that are proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the fishermen living in the Western Coast of Tamil Nadu to carry on their fishing operation during monsoon season too when they face